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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/925,781

08/09/2001

Rabindranath Dutta

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4225

7590

10/06/2006

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EXAMINER

COBANOGLU, DILEK B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,781

Applicant(s)

DUTTA ET AL.

Examiner

Dilek B. Cobanoglu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/09/2001.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed on 07/05/2006.

Claims 1-36 are still pending, claim 37 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber et al. (hereinafter Barber) (U.S. Patent No. 4,858,121) and Rozen et al. (hereinafter Rozen) (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,106) further in view of Knaus et al. (hereinafter Knaus) (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0004727 A1).

A. Claims 1, 19 and 35 have been amended now to recite a method, a computer usable medium and a system to provide patient medical financial information through a networked connection comprising determining whether the access request corresponds with the patient access instructions, wherein determining whether the access request corresponds with the patient access instructions comprises authenticating the request with a third party certificate authority.

Barber and Rozen fails to expressly teach the determining whether the access request corresponds with the patient access instructions

comprises authenticating the request with a third party certificate authority per se, since it appears that Barber is more directed to a medical payment system, which verifies the physician, patient and insurance company identifications and Rozen is more directed to receiving patient access instructions, receiving an access request from a requester at the aggregate medical server and determining whether the access request corresponds with the patient access instructions (Rozen et al.; col. 4, lines 33-65). However, this feature is well known in the art, as evidenced by Knaus.

In particular, Knaus discloses determining whether the access request corresponds with the patient access instructions comprises authenticating the request with a third party certificate authority (Knaus; abstract, par.0021, 0022, 0026, 0045 and Fig. 5-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the aforementioned limitation as disclosed by Knaus with the motivation of preventing patients forced to undergo needles and costly additional testing and patient to control his/her own medical records (Knaus; par. 0040).

B. Claims 2-5, 7-18, 20-22, 24-34 and 36 have not been amended, and Applicant does not appear to argue the separate patentability of these claims. As such, claims 2-5, 7-18, 20-22, 24-34 and 36 are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (paper number 2-12), and incorporated herein.

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4. Claims 6 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber et al. (hereinafter Barber) (U.S. Patent No. 4,858,121), Rozen et al. (hereinafter Rozen) (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,106), Knaus et al. (hereinafter Knaus) (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0004727 A1) and further in view of Riley (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0077940 A1).

A. Claims 6 and 23 have not been amended, and Applicant does not appear to argue the separate patentability of these claims. As such, claims 6 and 23 are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (paper number 11-12) and further in view of Knaus because of the dependency.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

7. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dilek B. Cobanoglu whose telephone number is 571-272-8295. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DBC

DBC
Art Unit 3626
09/11/2006


JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER